



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 6
1201 ELM STREET, SUITE 500
DALLAS, TEXAS 75270

Office of the Regional Administrator

September 9, 2021

Jaclyn Hotard, President
St. John the Baptist Parish
1811 W. Airline Highway
LaPlace, Louisiana 70068

Dear Parish President Hotard:

We hope you and your constituents are doing well and recovering from the significant impacts to your community from Hurricane Ida. With this letter, we wanted to provide you with a status update of EPA's chloroprene air monitoring in the community around the Denka Performance Elastomers facility in LaPlace.

As you know, EPA has been measuring chloroprene emissions for several years and operating a continuous air monitoring system that utilizes SPods since 2020. The continuous monitors and sample canisters were secured prior to Hurricane Ida's landfall. EPA is actively working to reestablish our SPod monitoring network after Hurricane Ida and began restarting the monitors this week. Today, EPA's contractor is visiting each of the monitoring sites to reinstall specific equipment and verify that the equipment is functioning properly after the hurricane. We anticipate that the following monitoring locations will be fully operational and capable of collecting chloroprene samples on September 10, 2021:

1. SPod 1016-Acorn
2. SPod 1017-Levee
3. SPod 1018-Fifth Ward Elementary School
4. SPod 1019-Chad Baker

The two other monitoring locations, SPod 1015-High School and SPod 1020-Hospital, are currently undergoing equipment upgrades to their canister collection systems, and we anticipate that they will be fully operational by the end of September.

EPA will continue posting chloroprene sampling results from the Continuous Air Monitoring Program to the Denka Air Monitoring Data Summary Page: <https://www.epa.gov/la/denka-air-monitoring-data-summaries>.

Thank you for your support in these efforts to monitor air quality in LaPlace.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David W. Gray", is positioned above the printed name.

David W. Gray
Acting Regional Administrator